Numb. 80.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Plunder taken at St. Maries. *The* Obſervators *Propoſal for* Greenwich-*Hoſpital. The* Country-mans *Propoſal for the ſame. An Account of Mr.* Hales *Paper in Relation to Mill'd-Lead. Of the uſe of Salt Pans made of Lead.*

From Saturday January the 23th, to Wednesday January the 27th, 170$\frac{8}{3}$.

Country-m. PRay Mr. *Obſervator*, let us have a little Diſcourſe this time of *Engliſh* Affairs; for tho' you talk'd laſt time of the Favourites in *England*; you ſpoke only of *Foreign Spungers*, which are as different from the *Engliſh Intereſt*, as is our Language from the *Hebrew*. I hear ſad Murmurings at *London* among the Men in *Red* and the *Tarrs*, who are forc'd to bring their Plunder into the *Prize-Office*, which Plunder they got at St. *Mary's* Port in *Spain*, contrary to the Declaration Publiſhed there by the *Engliſh* General. One Fellow, a Drummer, ſaid, *He had got no Plunder but a Wooden Platter, and hop'd he ſhould not loſe his Commiſſion if he did not deliver it up.* Another Fellow, they ſaid, having ſearched a Houſe which before had been quitted, found in it only a Child, which he brought away with him, and a great Diſpute happened among them whether that Child came under the Denomination of Plunder. They pleas'd me mightily with their odd Stories: And I proteſt, I believe, the Fellows would have *Fought* as well as *Plunder'd*, if they had had an Opportunity. But I Remember, when the Fleet was coming home from St. *Maries*, we were told of ſome Chief *Commanders*, who ſhew'd 'em the Way to Plunder, and who were then under Confinement by the Order of that *Noble* and *true Engliſhman* the Duke of *Ormond*. I hope, Sir, The Plunder of thoſe Officers is to be brought in as well as that of the Soldiers.

Obſ. Yes, yes, Don't you Queſtion that. I hope the Days are over of making *Dogs* of *Soldiers* and *Men* of *Officers*; tho' I muſt confeſs, the Officers have had a better opportunity of ſecuring their Plunder, than the poor Soldiers could have, who were under their Command. I think it but reaſonable to have what has been taken from the Enemy, ſo much to the Diſ-reputation of the *Engliſh* Nation, brought into the Publick Treaſury, tho' the Lives of the Ring-Leaders in this Action can never make ſatisfaction to Her Majeſties Honour, nor Her injur'd People. But the Affair of St. *Maries* is under ſuch Conſideration, that in a ſhort Time we may ſee what little Reaſon We have to thank ſome People for their Service in that Action. And I wiſh with all my Heart the Criminals, whoſoever they are, may be brought to Condign Puniſhment, than which Nothing can be a juſter Satisfaction to the Nation; and which, if done, will deter future Commanders from ſuch Evil Actions.

The Plunder taken at St. *Maries*, without doubt belongs to Her Majeſty, and 'tis in Her Breaſt to diſpoſe of it, as in Her Royal Wiſdom ſhe ſhall think fit. I will become Her Majeſties humble Petitioner on Behalf of our Poor Sailors, That Part of that Money gotten by Her Evil Servants, to the Diſ-ſervice of our Country, may be apply'd to the Uſe of *Greenwich*-Hoſpital, for the Relief of Hers, and the Nations Good Servants, who have loſt their Limbs in the Service. I wiſh every Man in *England* had as juſtly conſidered the Advantage of a Fleet to this our Realm, as I have done; Then would our Poor Sailors have many more Advocates beſides my ſelf; and no good Patriot would Condemn my Heat againſt ſuch as abuſe the *Sons of the Sea*, on whom the Welfare of *England* ſo much depends.

Country-m. I like your Propoſal very well. Here I have an Account of the Cargo of one of the *Galleons* taken at *Vigo*, called the *Santa Crux*, ſhe had on Board Her a *Crown of Gold* ſet with Rubies, but they ſay tis a *Young Crown* deſigned for their *Young King*, as alſo a *Crucifix* ſet with Stones, a Quantity of *Virgin Silver*, ſeveral Barrs of Silver, great Quantities of *Cochineile*, *Balſam* of *Peru*, *Indico*, *Coco*, *Chocolate*, *Superfine Sugar*, *Nichatrago Wood*, *Spaniſh Tobacco*, and *Snuff*, certain *Druggs*, ſeveral Iron bound Cask, very heavy, inſide Contents not yet known. They ſay the Cargo of this Ship is worth I can't tell how many Hundred Thouſand Pounds. Now, Maſter *Obſervator*, I would deſire you to put in a Clauſe in your Petition for a ſmall parcel of this Money alſo, to be apply'd to the Uſe of *Greenwich* Hoſpital.

Obſ. The Sailors of *England* have my good Wiſhes and Endeavours. We can only Publiſh our earneſt Deſire of our Countries Welfare, and heartily wiſh that, That our weak Deſires may excite others, in whoſe Power it is, ſo to repreſent the *Seamens Neceſſities* and *Grievances*, as to get Them Redreſs'd. A Poor Man has ſav'd a City, and who knows but yours and my weak Endeavours may be Inſtrumental in the Security of our Country; we have Leiſure to Think and Speak, the Miſt of Intereſt in making a Penny of the Sailors, is not before our Eyes. Diſ-intereſted Perſons have always a clear Horizon, and can ſee the Dangers threatning their Country at the Greateſt Diſtance.

Country-m. Have you, Sir, Conſidered the Paper I left with you, relating to the Mill'd Lead? Methinks that is a Pretty Invention.

Obſ. Yes, Sir, I have pretty Nicely conſider'd that Paper, which I wonder was never anſwered by any Plumber. That Invention of Mill'd Lead was taken from the manner of Milling Silver in the *Tower* for the Coinage, and has been very Succeſsfully uſed in the Navy for Sheathing of Ships. By this Paper of Mr. *Hales*, I find That to the Proportions of 10*lb.* of Caſt-Lead, to 8*lb.* of Milld-Lead, that ten Hundred weight

of

of Caſt-Lead, ſuppoſed to a Square, at 12's a Hundred, which the Plumbers Propoſed to the Hoſpital barely to pay for the Lead and waſte in Caſting, preſenting them with their Labour, Profit and Solder, as a Donation to the Charity for nothing, ten Hundred weight at that rate would amount to *6lb*; and eight Hundred weight of Milld-Lead, Contracted for, with Carriage and Workmanſhip in laying, at 17s. a Hundred, would amount to 6 *l.* 16 *s.* which is 16 *s.* more then the other; ſo from Mr. *Hale*'s Paper in this Calculation at $\frac{1}{5}$. The Plumbers Lead is not juſtly reckon'd, tho' at $\frac{1}{5}$ according to the common rate of Mill'd Lead at 16 *s.* and Caſt-Lead at 14 *s.* a Hundred, that is abundantly Cheaper; for eight Hundred of that would coſt but 6 *l.* 8 *s.* and the ten hundred of this would come to *7lb.* which is enough to encourage a Cuſtomer to prefer the Mill'd Lead. But in this Paper I perceive he goes more exactly to prove the entrinſick value of both, to juſtifie the Cheapneſs of his Contract at 17 *s.* in Preference to the Plumbers Charitable Propoſal at 12, which it ſeems they never offered till after his Contract was ſigned, their Propoſal before being 16 *s.* a Hundred. But by that Printed-Paper they ought to have reckoned $\frac{1}{3}$ difference, he having proved at leaſt ſo much by a double Demonſtration. The firſt being three taken from two ſeveral Tryals, formerly directed by the *Navy-Board*, to be made by the Mill'd Lead Company, and the Plumbers, upon ſeveral parcels of equal Meaſure, purpoſely to diſcover the Truth of the Plumbers beſt Caſting to any Size demanded, ordering them certain thickneſſes, *viz.* of 8lb. 10lb. and 12lb. to the foot ſquare, not to be thinner in any part, than the Sizes demanded, as little thicker as they could; when the Plumbers undertook to Caſt within half a pound in ten equal, thro' the whole Sheet; they both ſent in their Parcels. Upon the firſt Tryal, the Mill'd-Lead parcel (being found to be agreeable to Demand) weighed but 8 *C.* 1 *q.* 26 *lb.* Whereas the Caſt-Lead weigh'd 12 *C.* 3 *q.* 10*lb.* which was 40 *lb.* weight above $\frac{1}{3}$ more than the Mill'd-Lead, which ſhould have been but $\frac{1}{20}$ by the Plumbers Undertaking; but he pretending Careleſſneſs of Servants, himſelf being Abſent. The Board to leave him without Excuſe, order'd a ſecond Tryal upon double the quantity at the ſame Sizes, when another Maſter-Plumber joyned with him, and it muſt be imagined that now they uſed their utmoſt Skill, when their Credit and Intereſt were ſo much concern'd. This parcel alſo being ſerved in, the Milld-Lead weighed 16 *C.* 3 *q.* 10*lb.* not differing a Pound in a Hundred weight from the former) Whereas the Plumbers weighed 25 *C.* 3 *q.* 12 *lb.* which is 85 *lb.* above $\frac{1}{3}$ more then the Milld-Lead, ſo that $\frac{1}{3}$ at leaſt may well be Granted for eaſier Computation.

The ſecond Demonſtration to confirm the former, he proves from Practice and Experience in the uſe thereof upon Buildings, when the Coverings unfiniſhed, the charge of both *per* Square being compared: There are ſeveral both ways done mentioned in this Paper, particularly *Greenwich* Hoſpital Hall, covered with Mill'd Lead, and the Houſe of Commons covered with Caſt Lead, wherein he aſſerts the latter to be above 30 *per Cent* dearer then that upon the Hoſpital Hall, which is the thickeſt Mill'd Lead covering that was ever laid; it being of 9 *l.* to the Foot, and 11 to the Gutters. And if ſo, the Mill'd Lead may well bear that proportion of $\frac{1}{3}$ more in the price, having, beſides the Equality, ſo many Advantages of the Caſt Lead, as Solidity, Beauty and Lightneſs of Covering, as well as certainty of having what ſize you demand, which is very conſiderable; ſo that one Hundred of Mill'd at 17 *s.* going at leaſt as far and better than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ of Caſt Lead which comes to 18 *s.* that's 6 *per Cent* cheaper at 17 *s.* than this at 12 *s.* a Hund.

And thus have I given you an Account of Mr. *Hale*'s Paper, which I wonder was never Anſwered by the Plumbers, tho' Challenged by Mr. *Hale* to do it, and tho' about ſix Months ſince that Paper was Publiſhed. They are ſtill to be had at *Baitſons* Coffee-Houſe by the *Royal Exchange*, and at the Mill'd-Lead Sign in *Orange-ſtreet* by *Red-Lyon Square*. I have ſeen ſeveral other Papers of Mr. *Hale*'s, in relation to his Invention of Mill'd Lead, and as to the Difference betwixt Mill'd and Plumbers-Lead, in reſpect to the Plumbers Offer to *Greenwich* Hoſpital; I leave you, honeſt *Country-man*, or any one elſe, to Judge. But remember we always agreed to be on the ſide of Truth.

Country-m. Truly, Sir, I ſhall not determine the Buſineſs; I don't pretend to Calculations, I have no Lead at my Houſe but a Pump, and I can't tell whether that be Plumbers, or Mill'd Lead. But, Pray Sir, Did you ever Experience either? Thoſe that have try'd it are the beſt Judges.

Obſ. The Plumbers Lead I have experienc'd in a very uncommon Uſe; my ſelf and Partners, in a Salt Work, from the Practice of the *French* Salt Workers, contrived a Leaden Pan, which was Caſt for us by a Plumber, in uſing it, the Fire draw'd the bottom downwards, yet lower in ſome places than others, which made us think the Uſe of ſuch Pans Impracticable; we employ'd another Plumber to take down that Pan, and we found by his Cuting of it, that the Lead was Caſt very Uneven, thicker in ſome places than others, which occaſioned that Bellying downwards. Hereupon we ventured to have another Caſt in order to rectifie the Unevenneſs in the Caſting, but we found it the ſame thing, and ſo leaving our Leaden Pans, we betook our ſelves to the common Uſe of Iron Pans: Now, Sir, to make Improvement of every thing which comes before us, Had we known of this Invention of Mill'd Lead, we could have had our Pans Mill'd to what Even Thickneſs we pleas'd, and the Difference betwixt Lead and Iron in Salt Pans is very Conſiderable. An Iron Pan of 10 Foot by 12, ſtood us in near 8*cl.* and when it is worn out, is worth Little or Nothing: But a Lead Pan will yield when worn, not much leſs by weight, than the Unwrought Lead which made it, and not much abated in Price. This I leave to the Conſideration of the Salt-Workers of *England*.

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